Oct. 28, 1992

Mr. Hal Verb
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Dear Hal,

It was a pleasure meeting with you at the ASK Symposium last week. I apologize for the tardiness of my reply to your Aug. 23 letter but I have been literally swamped with work and I wanted to give your question the answer it deserved.

First off, I now tell people that I was one of the first persons to offer a university course in the assassination in difference to your course at S.F. State College. And please understand that my original error was due to ignorance rather than omission.

Now, as to Fred Korth: He was a big shot in Fort Worth when I was growing up and I was amazed to find out that he represented Marguerite Oswald when she divorced Ekdahl back in the Forties. Korth also was a leading stockholder in Continental National Bank in Fort Worth which, at the time of the JFK assassination, held controlling stock in the Fort Worth General Dynamics plant (Air Force Plant No. 4). It was GD, of course, which was awarded the controversial TFX (Tactical Fighter Experimental) contract over the objections of the both the Air Force and the Navy. Korth was the hand-picked successor to John Connally as Secretary of the Navy. Connally had returned to Texas in 1962 after winning the Governorship. In early November, 1963, Korth was fired by JFK supposedly for misusing his mailing privileges. However, it was widely rumored that he was sacked because of his role in the brewing TFX scandal which was expected to end up pointing at Lyndon Johnson.

In the 1970s I had the occasion to interview Korth's former wife and, while generally still showing loyalty to Korth, she told a fascinating story. She said she and Korth were married almost 25 years and that they were happy years. Korth has served as Secretary of the Army in the 1950s and when he as asked to take over the Navy job, he sought his wife's input. She said she was willing to go back into the Washington swirl if that's what he wanted. She said in early 1963, after getting settled down into his new job, Korth became reclusive and unresponsive to her. This grew worse as 1963 drew on and finally, in early November, Korth moved out of their house saying he couldn't be with her anymore. Some time later they quietly obtained a divorce by mutual consent. His wife did not believe that another woman was involved. She said that it was obvious that there were pressures in his work which he could not confide to her, which was upsetting to her because he had always been open about his work before that. Korth never returned to his home in Fort Worth and, assuming he is still alive, is still practicing law with a son in Washington D.C.

I personally suspect that Korth was in the know regarding the conspiracy. Of course I can't prove that but he was in the thick of the Military-Industrial Complex and I believe that his knowledge ruined his marriage. Anyway, that's about all I can tell you but if Fred Korth could be made/persuaded to tell everything he knows, I suspect we'd move further along the road of a truthful understanding of the assassination.

Best regards,

Jim Maus